



Penan, *Tribune* journalist make the grade



VIOLET TAY ... prefers print journalism.

by Kinston Albert

SAMARAHAN — Ambitious to become an educator in order to help and serve Penan community in educational progress, Ezra Uda, a Penan and a graduate from Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, realised that the education standard among his community is still lagging the mainstream of society.

Ezra, 25, who hails from a remote village called Long Lamai in Baram, and also the second child of five siblings, successfully completed his bachelor's degree in Politics and Government studies at Unimas here.

"In the future, I feel I need to make something about my community so that many of the Penans will be able to pursue their studies to higher levels. It's even better if they can further their education higher than what I have achieved now," he said joyfully.

Ezra also hoped that he would be able to work closely together with



JOY OF SUCCESS ... Ezra (centre) proudly showing his certificate to his father, Uda Limau (left) and mother, Ganet Nyato. PHOTOGRAPH: RAMIDI SUBARI

any relevant authority on the well being and development of Penan community.

"What we can see now is that there are only two Penans graduating from Unimas since its establishment ten years ago," Ezra said.

He believed that education was the most important thing to overcome any problem that hampered the development of a community and turn things for the better.

Both of his parents, Uda Limau and Ganet Nyato work as farmers and he admitted that he had once encountered financial problem dur-

ing his studies. However, he said the problem was solved once he obtained an educational loan from the government to pay for his studies.

"I really want to thank the State Government for providing me an educational aid to continue with my studies," said Ezra, who attributed his enthusiasm in tertiary education to inspiration by his school friends.

Meanwhile, a journalist from Sarawak Tribune, Violet Tay Suan Boon completed her studies in Communication Studies in the Faculty of Social Science at Unimas here.

"I feel very happy and I owed my success today to the support of my parents and lecturers, especially my former coordinator who lays the foundation of journalism to me," she said jovially.

"Now, I am working at Sarawak Tribune and it has been four months already. My future plan is that I want to gain more experience in journalism field," said Violet who preferred print journalism to broadcast journalism.

"I am more into print journalism because I have a great liking in that area," she revealed.